



banded killifish

Fundulus diaphanous

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| Kingdom: | Animalia |
| Division/Phylum: | Chordata - vertebrates |
| Class: | Osteichthyes |
| Order: | Cyprinodontiformes |
| Family: | Cyprinodontidae |

Features

The banded killifish averages two or more inches as an adult. It has a slender body that is compressed side to side. The body is light olive on the back and sides and yellow-white below. There are usually 12 to 20 narrow vertical bars on the body. The dorsal and anal fins are located more than halfway back on the body. The snout is bluntly pointed and the small mouth is slanted and opens toward the back. The lower jaw extends beyond the upper jaw.

Natural History

The banded killifish seems to prefer natural lakes with abundant aquatic vegetation. It has been collected from several natural lakes in Dickinson County. It also has been documented in the Missouri River. It eats insects, crustaceans, small seeds, and algae. The banded killifish forms schools just below the surface in weedy lakes. It spawns in late spring and early summer. The male courts a female. Eggs are released in clusters, fertilized, and quickly develop a filament that sticks to vegetation.

Habitats

natural lakes and marshes; Missouri River

Iowa Status

uncommon; native

Iowa Range

northwest Iowa and Harrison and Pottawattamie Counties

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.